

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
July 16, 2010
Auditorium at MHS, Helena, Montana

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Murry, Steve Carney, Jack Lepley, Lee Rostad, Kent Kleinkopf, Steve Lozar, Jim Court, Janene Caywood, Shirley Groff and Thomas Nygard. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Administrative Assistant Renee Podell, MHS Administrator Denise King, MHS Museum Program Manager Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert, MHS Membership Coordinator Rebecca Baumann, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager Mark Baumler, MHS Research Center Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Public Relations Coordinator Tom Cook and MHS Special Projects Manager Susan Near and MHS Summer Interns Rachel Hillier, Mike Folherts, and Monika Brandt.

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Steve Lozar led the prayer.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Tom Nygard moved approval of the minutes from the April 23, 2010 Board of Trustee meeting. Jim Court seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MHS MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR AND FOUR SUMMER INTERNS

Richard introduced the new membership coordinator for MHS. Rebecca Baumann introduced herself saying that she recently came from the Made in Montana program. She reported that she increased membership in that program by 1,000 percent during the nine years she worked in that position and she has every ambition to do the same for MHS. Rebecca explained that she and Jim Court have been working on a project to increase memberships by mailing letters to the Legislative body encouraging them to become members. Her research shows that out of 150 Legislators only six are currently members. A packet has been prepared containing a letter that would go out under the Board's signature to individual Legislators asking them to become a member. The letters are in zip code order and will be divided equally amongst the Board. The Board members will have the opportunity to put a personal note on the letter. Rebecca said her next area to pursue is to encourage more state employees to become members.

Kent Kleinkopf noted that Legislators around the state meet at least monthly and it is his intention to be invited to these meetings to talk about the process for the new Heritage Center.

He mentioned this may be something all Board members could do in their areas. Jim Murry commented that the Board looks forward to working with Rebecca in expanding memberships.

Molly Kruckenberg introduced the three summer interns working in Helena this summer explaining that Rachel Hillier, Mike Folkerts and Monika Brandt are working with archives materials. The fourth intern, Kay Garsnett, from the University of North Texas, is spending the next seven weeks in Petroleum County helping the local government to inventory, preserve and make accessible their historic records.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Executive Committee

Steve Lozar reported the following issues were discussed: 1) The 2nd draft campaign budget (which will be recommended to the Board); 2) The Board's role in the Capital Endowment Campaign (setting the tone for this campaign); 3) Bonding authority; 4) An estate bequest (\$450,000 value); 5) Developing a timeline for the Capital Campaign; 6) Special Board meeting scheduling (defining the Board's role in the campaign and possibly a campaign cabinet of individuals that would help the Board identify potential donors). Discussion also included addressing the Tribal Nations of the State for a donation to take on the project of the proposed amphitheatre. Steve said within 30 days the Committee would like to have at least three names of potential donors from each Board member. Work proceeds on finding the proper forms for Richard's evaluation. Steve reiterated the importance of the Board leading the way in fundraising.

Tom Nygard said the Board's involvement is some of the greatest firepower that Richard Sims can take to the public in soliciting funds for the new Heritage Center. Kent Kleinkopf noted we are all on this Board for a reason and we have all agreed to help build a new Heritage Center. Jim Murry reminded the Board this subject was discussed at length at the July, 2009 Butte Board meeting. It was agreed by the Board that each member would give according to their means. Denise King said it is important to note on any building fund donation check that it is intended for the building fund. Lee Rostad stated she has had several people asking what they could do to help support the new Heritage Center. She sat by a lady at the Marysville picnic who suggested having a pie auction and the lady even volunteered baking a couple pies for the fundraiser. Lee stated even if a lot of money isn't raised this way at least the people's interest is peaked. Lee suggested having a community meeting inviting anyone to come to the meeting if they are interested in helping. Lee also announced that Rob Quist said he would do a benefit for the new Heritage Center fundraiser. Jim Murry asked Lee to get together with Richard Sims in order to move forward on her ideas.

Membership Committee

Jim Court stated that MHS membership is less than 2,000 and he wants to see it grow to over 20,000 members. Jim said the Board needs to get Legislators on board as members. Once the Legislators become members they will see the Society isn't just a museum to walk through, it is

the archives, it's Education, and it's SHPO. The Board members must be the sales people and get the job done.

Outreach and Interpretation Committee

Kirby Lambert reported that at the Director's request the committee discussed how to make the committees work better for the Board and for the staff. Kirby said the discussion focused on more clearly defined roles and goals.

Publications Committee

Tom Nygard said the committee realized there is a very visual future for Publications and asked the Board to think about the prospect of a digital *Montana The Magazine of Western History* or e-books from the Society. Jim Murry asked Molly Holz to comment on this idea. Molly reported she attended the American Association of Universities in Salt Lake City and it was announced the digital age has arrived. Leaders in this field are moving forward and she is watching them to study the legal boundaries and will report more as new research develops.

SHPO Committee

Janene Caywood stated the principal discussion in this committee was the July 1st initiation fee for file searches. She reported there has been some opposition from one entity of State government. The issue is that they simply can't afford the cost. Damon Murdo gave the committee some suggestions on how a modification of procedures might be accomplished. The fee has generated \$1200.00 in the first two weeks. The new GIS data base is available for data entry and they have an intern working on this project. Kent Kleinkopf asked Mark Baumler if the State entity that has a problem with the fee has a large volume of use. Mark noted that among the State agencies this department would be the main user. He is expecting a letter from the bureau chief outlining what is the justification for them not being able to pay fees.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Jim Murry

Fundraising

Jim discussed the importance of fundraising for the new Heritage Center. Discussions were held on going to foundations for support and in working with the Legislature in hopes of getting additional money in bonding authority. Governor Schweitzer recently presented a check for \$1,000 to the fundraising efforts of MHS from the Western Governor's Conference held in Montana. As a policy, the conference makes a small contribution available to the cause of the host Governor's choice. The Governor decided the money should come to the Historical Society. Membership is very important right now and Jim emphasized the importance of the Board working on getting new members.

Director's Evaluation

The evaluation tool the Executive Committee has been working on to complete Richard's evaluation needs to be reviewed before the next meeting.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES/FINANCIAL REPORT-Denise King

Denise King presented the financial schedules for FY 2010 through June 30, 2010. She gave credit to Betty Anne Bergstrom for working so late into the night to get this report out for this meeting. She also presented a map of the Montana counties showing in each county all of the services handled by each department within MHS in this fiscal year.

Code Talkers Exhibit

Jim Murry asked Denise where the Code Talker Exhibit money was coming from. Denise stated that the money has come from a variety of places. She reported that a school from Stevensville donated money and the National Indian Gaming Association, the Washington Foundation, Wal-Mart, private individuals, the Marine Corp, Humanities Montana Counsel and the Smithsonian all donated to this project. \$19,450 in donations has been received to cover the costs for the Code Talkers exhibit. Denise asked Richard to report on the exhibit's travels. Richard said the financial support for the exhibit has been very comfortable. The Smithsonian has asked him to write an article for one of their publications on this unique aspect of MHS owning one of their exhibits for a year and traveling it through Indian country in the west. We are going to keep the exhibit for another year with an emphasis on off the reservation venues. The exhibit has had wonderful events and receptions. MHS Board member George Horse Capture and 97 year old Joseph Medicine Crow gave a wonderful talk at the Crow Nation Agency. The third event took place in Browning with the Blackfeet people at Blackfeet Community College. George Horse Capture also gave a wonderful talk at the college. The next showing will be at Fort Belknap. In September, the exhibit will go to Fort Peck. In November, it will travel to the Northern Cheyenne Community of Lame Deer. Richard commented that he feels privileged to attend the opening events and to be making connections and new friends around Montana. Steve Lozar said that Richard's presentation at Flathead was the springboard of the summer. The tribes were honoring 1,600 tribal veterans (back to 1812) and they are commemorated on a marble wall in the center of the Tribal Complex. That is the first rallying event. Steve said Richard was very well received.

Charlie Russell Catalog

Denise King reported that a pledge of \$100,000 has been made, also a pledge for \$5,000 and contributions totaling approximately \$20,000 have been received. The cost of production will be around \$170,000. Tom Nygard said he had lunch with Brian Dippie recently, one of the recognized authorities on Charlie Russell, and Mr. Dippie was elated to hear about this publication noting that this will be a wonderful asset to the museum.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Richard asked Tom Cook to introduce Darrell Bergstrom, an MHS volunteer, to report on the event taking place on July 17, 2010 at MHS titled "Life in the Past Lane". Darrell helped organize a day celebration of antique automobiles and other modes of transportation in the Treasure State. A handout was presented.

Cultural and Aesthetic Committee Appointees

Richard asked for Board action on two appointments for the Cultural and Aesthetic Committee. He stated that Penny Redli, Director, Museum of the Beartooths, is seeking reappointment. Peter Rudd, Architect, Schlenker & McKittrick, specializing in historic preservation, which is the kind of skill this committee sought, is seeking appointment to the committee. **Shirley Groff moved appointment of Penny Redli and Peter Rudd to the Cultural and Aesthetic Committee. Lee Rostad seconded the motion.** Jim Court wondered if both of these appointees might be members of the Montana Historical Society. He said in view of the push for members he thought he would ask this question. Richard said he will look into this matter. Jack Lepley commented he would like to put in a good word for Penny Redli. He said Penny really holds together the Montana Association of Museums as its secretary and she did a wonderful job on remodeling the Beartooth Museum. Janene Caywood said she overlapped with Penny for one term on the committee and she said Penny was the only person who went through each and every budget with a fine tooth comb. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Strategic Plan Draft/Action Steps Update-Susan Near

Susan presented a handout which is made a part of the permanent record. Susan explained that the steps need a little more work and asked to have this placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. The plan is fairly comprehensive in explaining the tasks MHS will undertake to meet goals and when those goals will be completed. The plan will be used in Program Managers meetings and in quarterly reporting and staff will refer back to this plan for the next three years. A strategic plan is not a thing you do and then put on the shelf. This is an action document and hopefully MHS will use it to plan for the future. Susan explained that it is important to know the plan can change or be amended when need be. **Kent Kleinkopf moved to approve the action steps of the Strategic and Action Plan draft. Tom Nygard seconded the motion.** Jim Murry asked Susan if the whole staff had worked on and approved this plan. Susan commented that they had reviewed this plan. Richard stated he would like to see each Board committee and their staff use this plan and the action steps to revise, reenergize and strengthen what is pertinent to their committee. **The motion carried unanimously.**

MHS Procedural Manual-Susan Near

Susan highlighted the changes which reflect current practice. The handout presented by Susan Near is made a part of the permanent record. The Code of Ethics was adopted in 2008 and the changes are considered updates. **Kent Kleinkopf moved approval of the changes to the Montana Historical Society Procedural Manual which reflect current practice. Shirley Groff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Proposed Amendment to the MHS Code of Ethics-July 2010-Susan Near

Susan explained that the Code of Ethics needs to comply with the Montana Code. The handout presented by Susan Near is made a part of the permanent record. **Lee Rostad moved approval**

of the proposed amendment to the MHS Code of Ethics presented by Susan Near. Jim Court seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Heritage Keepers Award-Susan Near

Susan wanted to make sure the names of this year's Heritage Keepers recipients were reflected in the minutes. The MHS Awards Committee nominated Bob Barthelmess, Miles City, Montana and Ken Robison, Great Falls, Montana. Shirley Groff commented that she recently had the opportunity to visit with Mr. Barthelmess at the Range Riders Museum in Miles City and was truly impressed.

A Quick Look Back, A Long Look Forward

Richard commented he wants the Board to look at where MHS has been and where the future of this organization is going. He presented a handout which is made a permanent part of this record. Richard gave a perspective on the Montana Heritage Center project highlighting the years of 2005 – 2010 and the proposed facility expansion readiness activities.

Richard introduced the second draft campaign budget. The handout is made a part of this permanent record. Richard stated he seeks Board approval on the campaign budget. Jim Murry announced that the Executive Committee recommended approval of this budget. **Tom Nygard moved to accept the second draft campaign budget under the premise that this is simply the beginning. We have a several year endeavor on our hands and one never knows what will happen in the future. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Kent Kleinkopf suggested that one way Board members can contribute is by inviting local Legislators, business leaders, and dignitaries to socials in their local communities and simply pick up the tab for it. Richard is often happy to attend the socials and this will take the financial burden off the Society.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM REPORT-Kirby Lambert

Kirby Lambert presented "Save the Date" post cards for the 2011 History Conference. He suggested that the next selection process for the Heritage Keepers Awards be conducted earlier in order to include information about the awardees in the History Conference program. Next year the conference will be earlier starting September 22 – September 24.

Kirby announced, in keeping with Glacier Park activities, O & I now has a new footlocker available on Glacier Park for its centennial. He said the next project being worked on is the "Best Practices" for museums and educators. This is the third round of grants from OPI-IEFA and this one is almost \$200,000. There will be six museum and school partnerships working together over the next school year. Each partnership gets \$14,000 from OPI and MHS will get money to cover expenses. O & I is contracting with Indian education coaches to help the schools and museums work together to produce a product. Jim Court suggested it might be worth

considering having the Board meetings last a little longer with the possibility of O & I occasionally doing a display of what is in the footlockers so the Board has some knowledge of what these footlockers contain.

MUSEUM PROGRAM-Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

Jennifer said each Board member has been given the draft Museum Collections Management Policy. The policy clarifies all the functions the Museum department does in relation to collections and it enfolds already existing Montana code Board policy. The policy itself is only six pages long. She asked the Board to review it and to take action on it at the next Board meeting.

Jennifer announced that a nice offer has been made to MHS. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas has generously offered to do some conservation work on the painting *When the Land Belonged to God*. The last time anything was done to this painting was 30 years ago when it was cleaned and a new coat of protective varnish was put on it. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has a paintings conservator that is originally from Helena, Erica Henry James. Ms. James is presently in Houston. She is very excited to be able to offer this service, free of charge to us. Jennifer said MHS is working on the logistics to make this happen.

PUBLICATIONS-Molly Holz

Molly was happy to announce the summer issue of the magazine is all about Glacier Park and it will be arriving soon. She reported that Ellen Baumler's book *History on the Go* will be in the museum store in one month. Discussion took place on the possibility of selling in the Museum Store complete sets of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

RESEARCH CENTER-Molly Kruckenberg

Research staff has been working on processing collections, arranging them, preserving them and making them assessable to the public. Molly gave examples of this by saying they recently finished making the records of Governor Forrest Anderson's administration available. This has been a great accomplishment for the staff. They had two staff members using new processing techniques to arrange the records. They are delighted to have these records available. Kent Kleinkopf asked Molly if this is as far as the work has been completed on Governor's papers. Molly said it is, due to the fact that Governor's papers are very large collections and Governor Anderson's papers are one of the smallest collections of Governor's records. Molly recently submitted a grant to NEH to work in part on processing Governor's records focused on the 1972 Constitution. She asked for \$340,000 for a three year processing project for those records. Staffing shortage is part of the delay in getting the work up to date.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE-Mark Baumler

Mark gave to each Board member the new 2010 Montana Preservation poster. Going to the Sun Road is not only listed in the National Register as a historic property but it is also one of Montana's 25 national historic landmarks. Mark said for those who do not have room for another poster please take a poster and share it with a local library.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Near reminded the Board that Rendezvous of Art is coming in August and she presented posters to the Board members. She also reported that the gallery of art offerings is on the website this year.

Discussion took place by the Board on the policy of loaning or not loaning of MHS art pieces.

Lee Rostad read a letter from Bob Morgan regarding his concern of loaning major art pieces and his desire to see further definition given on the current loan policies. Lee noted that when the Board voted to loan the Russell paintings, MHS was suppose to get four pictures back from the Gilcrease Museum to show while the Russell paintings were gone out of state. Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney explained that the previous Program Manager, Bill Mercer, decided that this would not be the best way to proceed. Jim Murry commented that the loaning process was done by Board action. That decision should have come back to the Board. Kirby Lambert stated that the Gilcrease Museum was ready and able to proceed with this request. He said it was MHS that decided not to proceed. Jim asked what the decision was based on. Jennifer said the previous program manager made the decision on his own. Kent Kleinkopf asked if another trade could be negotiated in the future. Lee said it is the recommendation of Bob Morgan and she personally agrees with Bob, and so do other Board members, that MHS not loan any art pieces valued over \$5,000. Tom Nygard said he personally disagrees with this thinking and he has had this conversation with Bob. Tom said the attitude of not having MHS' precious and wonderful paintings travel the same way other institutions have their precious and wonderful paintings travel is a little dated. We will simply find MHS' request for loans will dry up. Jennifer stated MHS does loan artifacts regularly for exhibits from other institutions. She said there is give and take throughout the museum world. Jim Court asked if loaning procedures are addressed in the draft policy manual that has been distributed at this meeting. Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney answered that this issue has already been addressed by Board policy. She said every outgoing loan is approved by this Board. Kirby Lambert commented that the way the loan was handled by Mr. Mercer did create some ill will on the part of the people that had gone to a lot of trouble to make the loan a possibility. Jim Murry suggested this issue be put on the Executive Committee meeting agenda. Richard Sims asked that the Museum Committee also put this on their agenda.

Tom Nygard stated that at the Executive Committee meeting it was discussed that this is the fourth anniversary of MHS' esteemed Director, Richard Sims. Tom wanted credit to be given where credit was due. The Board applauded Richard's leadership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING

Richard said a special meeting will be held for the Board members which will be a development workshop on fundraising with the newly hired consultants. That meeting will occur in late August or September. Jim Court suggested members be polled to see when all of the Board

members could be in attendance. Jim Murry asked if the Board desired to have the regular meeting of the Board on October 15, 2010. It was agreed to meet October 15th.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.